

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC  
February 6, 2024

Before the meeting started two Amateurs took, and passed their Technician Class license exams.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 12 members and guests present at the meeting.

A motion to accept the January 2, 2024, minutes as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Roger, KE8LCM, seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the December minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Roger, KE8LCM, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said that he is designing a noise detect circuit that will detect noise on any of the Remote Receivers, lock them out of the system and allow other Remote Receivers to be re-transmitted. He explained how the system will work. He said he still needs to get the Hendershot Farm, Rockport, and Williamstown sites to get Remote Receivers back on line. As soon as the weather get better he wants to get the St. Marys and Sand Hill Remote Receivers installed, and on line. He thinks to Remote Receiver at Elizabeth is still working, but he would like to go check out the tower site and all the equipment. Ken said he doesn't know why the Remote Receiver at his house doesn't seem to be working too good since several of those living close to it are having problems getting into the repeater. Ken wanted to thank Roger, KE8LCM, for having the AllStar system working on the repeater which allows several Amateurs to get into the system.

Bill, N8JXO, gave a report on the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) He said the websites are still up and running. Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't written any DAREN News for a few months, but he does have ARES Bulletins that he needs to get to Roger, KE8LCM, who has been putting them on the website. Ken said that he needs to work on his computers so he can get everything caught up. Ken said he hasn't done much with the DAREN News since there is very little activity on the system. The only thing he had been having in the DAREN News is Amateur related activities and the State Wide DAREN Net reports.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Communications Trailer is still sitting at the Field Day site. The trailer needs to be checked out to get it ready for Field Day in June. The only thing the trailer is being used for lately is the storage of some of the Field Day equipment.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 443.175 MHz repeater is up and running. He said he doesn't think anyone uses it and he hasn't talk to anyone on it in awhile, but it's there if we need it.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 800/900 MHz equipment is still on hold for a little while until we can get crystals for it and get it on one of the AREDN (Amateur Radio Digital Emergency Network) Project 900 MHz frequencies. Steve, KL8T, talked about a way we might be able to get programmable crystals. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that if you have any equipment changes that you want to have on resource records, to put them on an ARES form. The ARES Forms can be found on the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) Ken said that he is no longer the ARRL ARES District Emergency Coordinator for the district, since you need to be an ARRL Member. He said he dropped the ARRL Membership at the end of 2023, because they no longer send the QST Magazine without paying an additional \$25, on top of the their membership cost. Ken said he will keep track of the Amateur equipment for our own purposes. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that most of the county and state emergency services directors wants volunteers that work with them to have been certified in the NIMS (National Emergency Management System), Ken reminded everyone if they haven't completed the NIMS ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and any other NIMS communications courses, they should try to get them completed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. The hours will be down until about March or April.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said there is no fund raising activities planned. Ken, WA8LLM, said the Junior, KE8WOX, gave the group an NRA ammo box that we can sale raffle tickets. It was suggested that we hold the box and try to sell chances on it at the Hamfest, or give it away as a door prize. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to remind everyone if they have friends or relatives who haven't registered their Kroger Card, to ask them to register it, and show WCEC as the donation recipient.

Rick, WV8DOC, wasn't at he meeting, but Bill, N8JXO, said the Everbridge system has been sold to another company. But, he heard there wasn't going to be any changes to the system.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Hendershot Farm tower site is still there. Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't been to the site lately, but the radio systems on the tower seem to be working fine. The batteries are being kept charged from the solar panels. Ken says he needs to hang more antennas on the tower so additional system can be installed. Ken said that Bill, N8JXO, donated the block for the building. Ken wanted to start laying block for the building last year, but had health problems. He is hoping to start the building this year when the weather gets better. After the building is completed and the roof on it, he would like to start purchasing and installing solar panels on the roof. Ken would also like to change out the wind generators that don't seem to be working. He said that with the two 100 watt panels and seven 25 watt panels, they are keeping the batteries charged up even with the short daylight hours.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the AREDN Project. Ken said that Joe, N8MEV, Bob, KC8RSJ, George, KE8CAF, and himself installed a AREDN Node on a 20 foot mast pipe at Georges Aunts farm. It is powered from four 25 watt solar panels. The system seems to be working fair. The batteries need to be upgraded to keep the node operational. The node is able to see the Red Hill, Summit, and Sand Hill tower nodes. Ken is hoping to install a 30 or 40 foot self supporting tower at the site this coming summer. The site will support a Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz repeater, a Packet Radio node on the DAREN network, as well as the AREDN Project node. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the basic electronic class has been put on hold until we can find a place and time to hold the classes. A short explanation on what will be on the class when it is held.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded those at the meeting if they want to make a copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Card, he will put it in their WCEC records.

Bill, N8JXO, said there are several items on a list to work at the Health Department EOC. Bill said they still haven't received the feed line for the radios.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that Kevin, KC8OXY, has the radios that are going to be used on the Sand Hill 462.675 MHz GMRS repeater re-programmed and ready to be installed. Ken said that Earl, KB8HRG, has the duplexers tuned up and ready to go. Ken is hoping to install the repeater in the next week or so. Ken is working on a way to link the 462.675 MHz repeater to the 462.575 MHz repeater at Summit in Vienna. There was a GMRS meeting held at the South Side Library on Monday. The GMRS is getting more active, and we're hoping to get some of them interested in Amateur Radio. The GMRS group has been holding a Prepper Net on the first Sunday of the month at 8:00pm on the 462.575 MHz repeater, but they are going to start holding the net on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he is hoping the weather gets better so that he can make a trip to the Kings Ridge Road tower site in St Marys. He needs to install a Packet Radio system on the DAREN system and move the link antenna for the Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz repeater. A short discussion about Packet Radio followed.

Larry, KF8NW, gave a report on the Winter Field Day activity that was held on January 27th. It was cold, wet, and miserable, but radio contacts were made. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, received an E-Mail from Duane, N8LDM, wanting to know if we can provide the safety communications for the Challenge at Mountain Bike Race that will be held on April 21st. Ken let him know that it was already on the activity list, and that we would be there. We will be using the 147.255 MHz repeater. The handheld radio will be transmitting on 440.500 MHz with the PL Tone of 146.2 Hz and receiving on 146.255 MHz. Handheld radios will be available, if needed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he did a communications presentation in Ritchie County. They wanted to know about general communications, and Amateur Radio. They may be wanting to hold a one day Technician Class radio class.

Charleston Hamfest will be held on March 9th.

George, KE8CAF, has been talking with Kenny Cline, KB8YAV, about the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church as a possible WCEC meeting place. It was decided to take a look at the church, and make a decision on meeting there.

George, KE8CAF, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roger, KE8LCM. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

#### THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Larry Dale KF8NW, Judy Peterson M8UFQ/Unit 255, Roger Radcliff KE8LCM/Unit 281, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Bob Morgan KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Jeff Scott K KC8EEQ/Unit 282